

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THE JAMES HICKS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 946 West Benning Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Galesville ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Freddie and Virginia Brown

street & number 946 W. Benning Rd. telephone no.: 867-0916

city, town Galesville state and zip code MD 20765

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. A.A.Co. Registry of Deeds liber 2349

street & number folio 491

city, town Annapolis state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Survey

date ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-916

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of moves: 1952; ?; ?; ?.
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This is a house composed of many recycled parts, assembled on the site over a period of years from c. 1930 until ?

The frame construction consists of a 2-story section with gable roof, a 1-story section with gable roof, and 3 1-story sections with shed roofs. Roof lines range from medium slope to very shallow. The foundation is partially concrete block and partially poured concrete.

Window styles include the following double hung^{wood} sash sizes: six-over-six, six-over-one, three-over-six, and two-over two. There is also a^{metal} storm/screen combination one-over-one.

Siding material is asbestos shingle. Roofing material, partially asphalt shingle and partially roofing paper. There is one narrow concrete block tile-lined chimney.

The interior was not surveyed.

The owner pointed out a small wooden "cooler", on tall legs, in the back yard. (See slide in MHT file.) She said it came from the yard of the old Alexander Hicks House, adjacent on the west side to the James Hicks property. James' mother Elizabeth Hicks "kept fruit in it for pies all winter". When the old house burned c. 1960, the cooler was moved here. It is thought to be about 75 years old since the Alex. Hicks House was built c. 1907.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-916

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

James Albert Hicks, one of 7 children of Alexander and Elizabeth Hicks, and a younger brother of Margaret Crowner (owner of AA-917 & 918), probably began "assembling" his house on West Benning Road in 1930. On May 7, 1930 his father purchased for \$75 from the heirs of Samuel Stein Lot #35 ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre) which adjoined his (Alexander's) house lot on the west and Margaret's house lot on the east. (F.S.R. 75/27) (See attached plat of "Stein's Property" prepared by John Shepherd, Surveyor, during June/July 1929.) The James Hicks House is located on the front half of Lot #35.

According to several oral sources, including James' neice, nephews, and William R. Woodfield, Sr., James built his house "piece by piece" over a period of many years. He recycled parts of other buildings in Galesville by dragging them to his lot and fitting them together. The largest part of his house, the 2-story central section, came from Riverside Drive near Councillors Pt. and was at least 55 years old when he bought it in 1952. It had been a 1-room-up 1-room-down tenant building on the property of Johnny Smith, a Galesville native (born c.1890), who grew up in Will Smith's Boarding House on Lerch Creek (now owned by the Richard Greens). Circa 1920 Johnny Smith bought the home of Wm.T. Leatherbury whose Leatherbury's Lumber Yard was adjacent at Councillors Pt. (Today the West River Marina occupies the site of the Lumber Yard, and Cap'n Clack's Boating Store occupies the Leatherbury/Smith House -see attached photo of Clack's Store.) Smith may have built the tenant house after buying the Leatherbury property, because James Crowner (b.1923) recalls it there when he was young, whereas Alma Strong (b.1904) does not remember it there when she was young and played in her Aunt Jennie (Mrs.Wm.T.) Leatherbury's yard, c.1910.

Alexander Hicks died intestate in 1938; his wife Elizabeth died intestate in 1945. In 1953 the 7 heirs (children of Alex. and Eliz.) and their spouses conveyed their title to the front half of Lot #35 to Trustee Louis M. Strauss "for the sole purpose of immediately reconveying the same property to Js.Albert Hicks and Estelle, his wife." (Liber J.H.H.858/564) The reconveyance occurred in Liber J.H.H.858/569, 10-19-53, and contained $\frac{1}{4}$ acre.

James Albert Hicks died sometime before June 25, 1970. On that date his widow, Estelle Hicks, granted to Virginia Brown "the use of the premises during the natural life of Estelle Hicks, and upon her death, to vest fully in Virginia Brown her heirs and assigns all that lot of ground... acquired by Js.Albert Hicks... from Louis M. Strauss by deed" 10-19-53. Today Virginia Brown and her husband Freddie Brown live in the James Hicks House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-916

Booklet entitled "Galesville Bicentennial Observance June 12, 1976", Alma Strong, historian, Roberta Cassard, Chairman.

Oral Interviews: James Crowner (nephew of Js. Hicks), Harriett Hull (niece of Js. Hicks), Alma Strong, William R. Woodfield Sr., and Virginia Brown (present owner of Js. Hicks House).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Deale 1957; photorevised 1970

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT

date 6/86

street & number P.O. Box 1573

telephone

city or town Annapolis

state MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CROWNER/HICKS FAMILY TREES

Galesville, Md.

Benjamin Crowner (1822-by1870)

married

Henrietta --- (1824-by1894)



children:

Martha (b.1842)

Lloyd (b.1854) m'd Caroline

Philip (b.1856) m'd Caroline (b.1864)

Benjamin (b.1860)

Thomas (b.1861) m'd Alice (b.1866) → children:

Charles (b.1862)

married

Eliza White (b.1866)



children:

Martha (b.1882)

Sarah E. (b.1887)

Annie (b.1892)

Lillie A. (b.1894)

Henny (b.1896)

Daniel G. (b.1899)

children:

Benjamin (1878-1962)

Robert

James

Daughter

Sadie (b.1891)

Rinaldo (b.1892)

Richard (b.1894)

Grasham (b.1895)

Levy (b.1897)

Alexander Hicks (b.1866)

married

Elizabeth



children:

Margaret Ann (1884-1962)

Edward m. Grace

George (widower by 1953)

Lelia m. William McDaniel

Elizabeth m. McKinley Watkins

Beatrice m. Julius Miles

James Albert m. Estelle

married



children:

Benjamin (d.1972) m'd Nannie

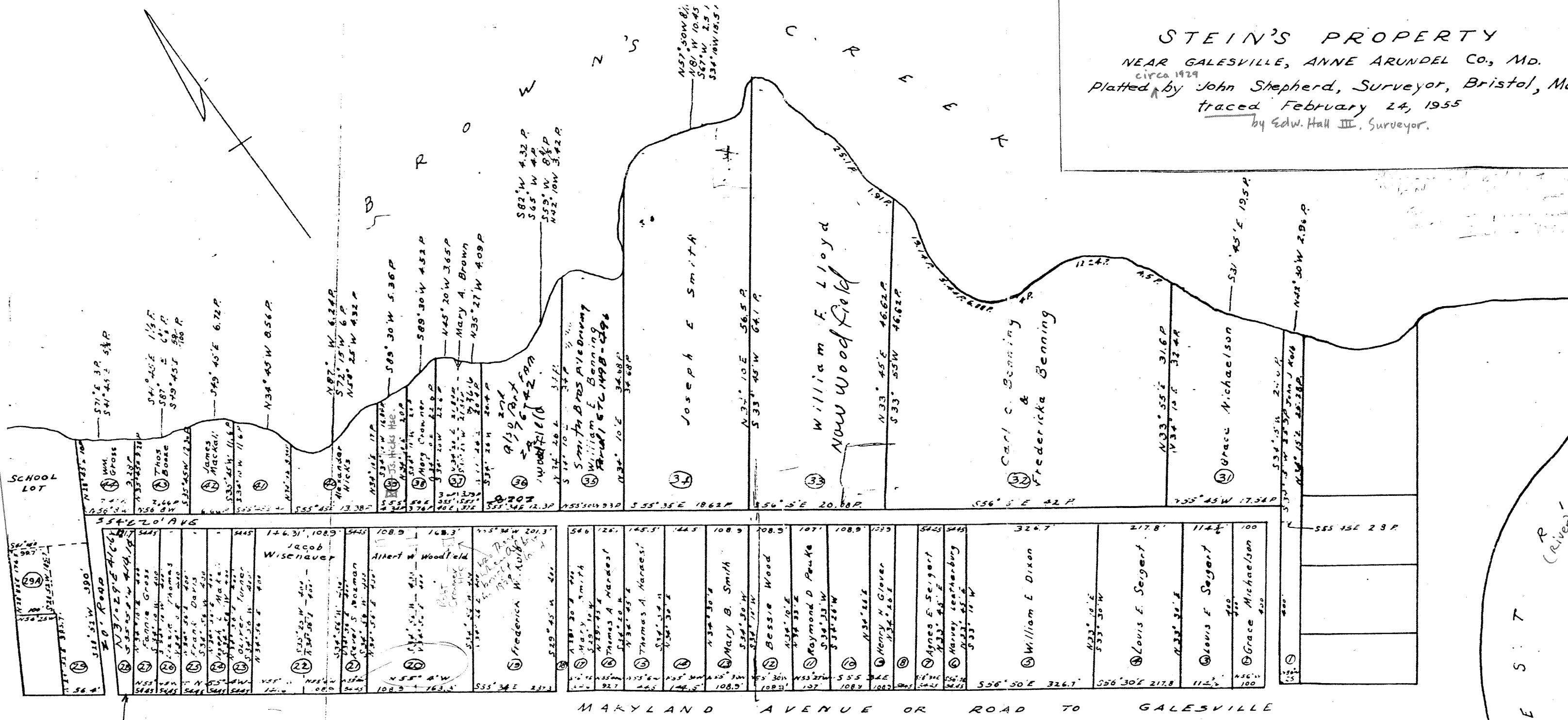
Alexander

Harriett (b.1918) m'd ---Hull

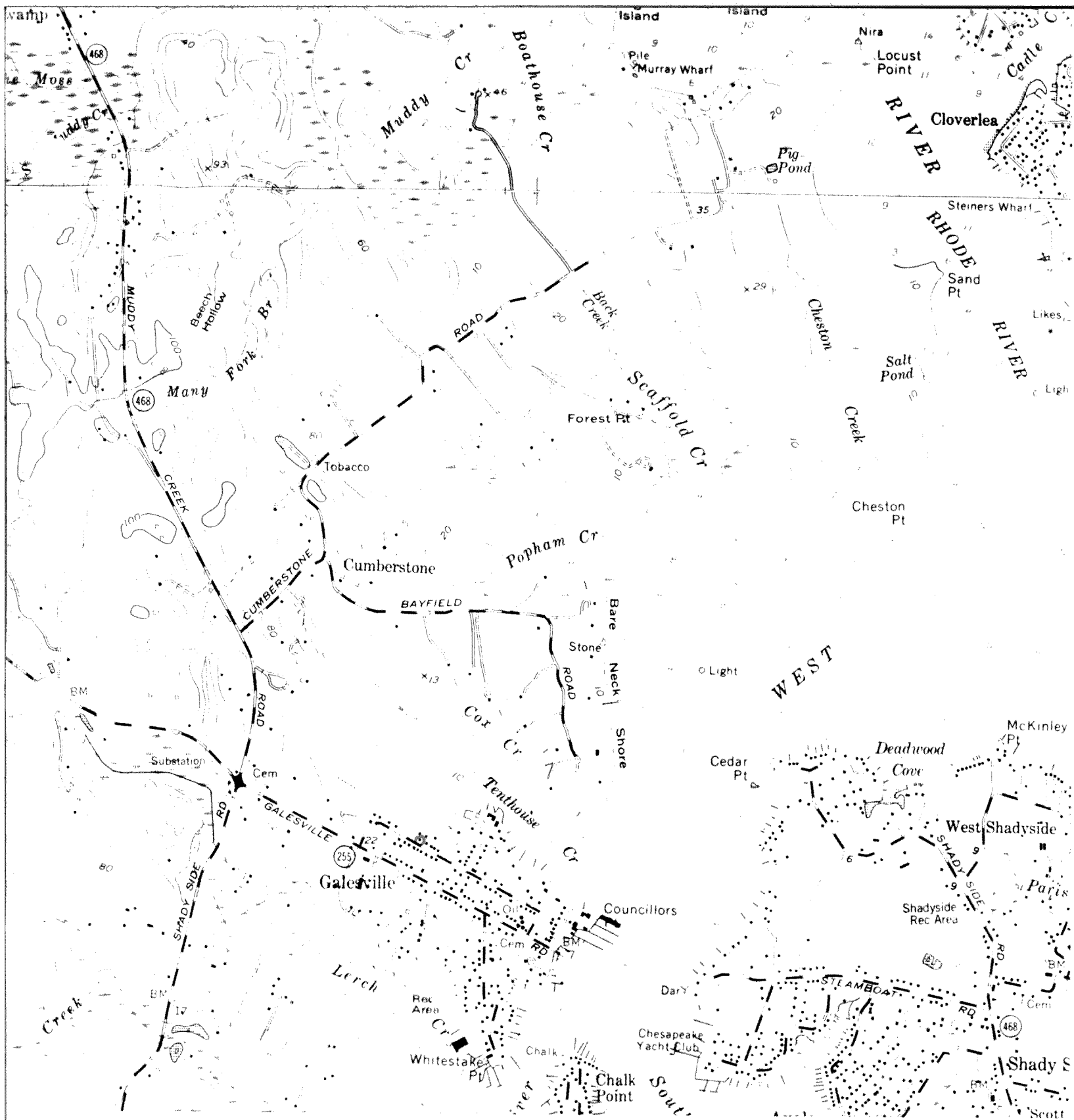
James (b.1923)

Prepared by S. Wetherill 5/86

Birthdates taken from Federal Census records.



(This copy obtained from Edward Hall III, Surveyor, Annapolis, 8/85.
Ed. Hall's files have been turned over to Richard Walker, Surveyor, 111 Chinquapin Rd., Annapolis.)
- S.W.



Deale, MD.
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1957; photorevised 1970

AA-916
 JAMES HICKS HOUSE
 946 West Benning Rd.
 Galesville



Capt. Clark's Boat Store - 4/85 - Galesville
(formerly Johnny Smith's Hse, and before that:
Wm. T. Leatherbury's Hse c. 1910)

~~Roll 10~~
~~FRAME 36~~

Anne Arundel Co., Md.
S. Wetherill
West corner

File with AA-916, the J. S. Hicks Hse.
~~#85~~



AA. 916

James Hicks House

A. A. Co., Md.

S. Wetherill, 4/85

~~ROLL 10~~

~~FIRMS 25~~

NW elevation

4/85



AA. 916

James Hicks House

~~Roll 10~~

~~FRAME 22~~

A.A. Co., Ind.

S. Wetherill, 4/85

East corner



AA-916

Js. Hicks House

A.A.Co., Md.

~~Roll 10~~

~~FRAME 24~~

S. Wetherill, 4/85

East corner



AA-916





AA-916

THE JAMES HICKS HOUSE

A.A. Co., Md.

S. Wetherill, 2/88

~~ROLL # 5~~

~~FRAME 15~~

West corner



(VIRGINIA BROWN'S HOUSE)
W. BENNING ROAD
GALESVILLE

2/19/85

AA-916

"THE JAMES HICKS HOUSE"

A. A. Co., Md.

S. Wetherill, 2/85

facade, SW elev.



7

AA-916





AA-916

The James Hicks House

A.A. Co., MD.

S. Wetherill, 4/85

NW elevation

(Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room, AA-918, is visible in background at right facing W. Benning Rd. at far right.)